

# News Release

## *Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex*

Block Island NWR □ John H. Chafee NWR at Pettaquamscutt Cove □ Ninigret NWR □ Sachuest Point NWR □ Trustum Pond NWR

50 Bend Road, Charlestown, RI 02813

Phone: 401/364-9124

Fax: 401/364-0170



**For Immediate Release**

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**For Further Information Contact:**

Janis Nepshinsky, Visitor Services Manager, extension 28

Neil Anthes, Park Ranger, Hunting Coordinator, extension 43

### **Trail Closures During Archery Only Hunt In The Vicinity of Kettle Pond Visitor Center**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be offering an archery only white-tailed deer hunt in the vicinity of the Kettle Pond Visitor Center of the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge this coming January. No hunting of firearms will be allowed, only the use of bow and arrow will be permitted, and only a restricted number of hunters will be allowed.

The deer hunt will take place from January 1<sup>st</sup> – January 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. For this first year we are temporarily closing the trails to the public, but the Kettle Pond Visitor Center itself will remain open during regularly scheduled hours. No hunting is allowed within 200 feet of a building nor within 100 feet of a road or trail.

The purpose of this hunt is to help control the overpopulation of deer and to provide a limited recreational opportunity for the public. Some people are surprised to learn that hunting is allowed on a national wildlife refuge, but these lands have been established not only to preserve wild places, but also to promote wildlife-dependent recreation when compatible with the purposes for which the refuge were established. As one of the oldest, most traditional recreational uses of renewable natural resources, hunting has been a popular activity within the National Wildlife Refuge System since its creation over a century ago. Today, more than 300 of our nation's refuges provide hunting opportunities to their visitors.

For more information and questions on hunting opportunities on the refuge, please contact Neil Anthes, hunting program coordinator at 401.364.9124 extension 43 or visit the website at [www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ninigret).

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